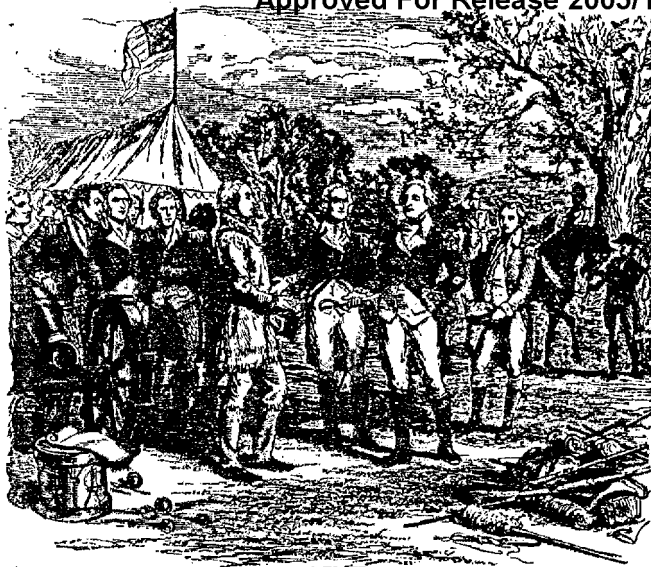


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The Battle of Saratoga: A Fateful Turning Point for American Independence

In the Fall of 1777, the American Revolution took a course that would alter forever British and American destinies. At stake were two early strategies which both sides believed would give their cause eventual success. For the Americans, final victory could only come if they could hold out until foreign allies came in to help defeat Great Britain on land and on the high seas. For the British, their grand strategy, if successful, would cut the Colonies in twain and bring ruin to the American cause before Europe could intervene decisively. When the British under "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne collided with the Americans led by Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold at Saratoga, the die was cast. The American triumph at Saratoga marked the turning point for each of the strategies.

From the opening battles at Lexington and Bunker Hill, the war stagnated into a desultory affair whose long-term outcome invariably pointed to heavy British losses in blood and treasure unless a way was found to crush the rebels. General Burgoyne and other strategists devised a scheme that just might bring the rebellion to a satisfactory conclusion. The "grand strategy" envisioned a north-south junction of two British armies at Albany, New York, to sever New England from the rest of the Colonies while engaging Washington's forces in a decisive confrontation. Burgoyne was to move southward from Montreal with a force of 6000 Regulars, German mercenaries, provincials and Indians to meet General Howe's forces moving northward from New York City. Should this pincer plan work, then Philadelphia, the American capital, would be deprived of New England, and total defeat of the rebels lay within British grasp.

The colonists were not unaware of the perilous situation affecting them should the British ever link forces and detach New England from the rebel side. Generals Washington, Gates and Arnold knew from reliable sources that the enemy could indeed launch with ease an operation of that magnitude. Agents in Canada and New York reported sizable concentrations of British troops and supplies for a late summer advance against the strategic Hudson River Valley. The recapture of Fort Ticonderoga by the foe in July signaled the Americans that time was running out: Burgoyne was on the move toward Albany. The Americans eventually gathered a force of 20,000 men led by General Horatio Gates.

edit Arnold and Benedict Arnold's Daniel Morgan and Ebenezer Learned to check "Gentleman Johnny's" march. After several thrusts and counterthrusts during August and September, Burgoyne's army reached Bemis Heights in early October, but the British forces from New York City had not yet fulfilled their part of the grand strategy. Generals Howe and Clinton were notified only that they were to move northward. However, the message sent by Burgoyne for them to proceed was never delivered: The messenger was killed, and his dispatch fell into American hands.

Despite massive desertions by provincials and Indians, as well as some German units, besides enduring overburdened supply lines from Canada, General Burgoyne decided to commit his forces before all the Americans could combine against him. On 7 October, the two armies collided, and, after five hours of bloody assaults, Burgoyne was obliged to retreat—but his army was not broken. Notwithstanding the British Regulars' valor and their commander's tenacity, the Americans under Arnold boldly shattered the enemy's attack until Burgoyne retired from the field. Five days later, "Gentleman Johnny" surrendered, and his army was led away into captivity.

Saratoga now shifted American prospects toward final victory. France, which watched both sides with great care, saw the American victory as a magnificent opportunity for it to take revenge on Britain. All Europe applauded Gates' martial accomplishment, while Burgoyne returned in ruin to England without his army. From this point on, the war became an international one when France, Spain and other European states lent their support for American independence at British expense.

by DR. JOSEPH R. GOLDMAN

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Those Congressional panels investigating U.S. intelligence activities might do a little bicentennial reading to get their well publicized seizures of moral outrage in better perspective. CIA Deputy Director Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters, USA (Ret.), told a recent ASC (American Security Council) luncheon that "I was doing a little research on intelligence . . . and I discovered that George Washington operated three separate kidnap attempts on Benedict Arnold—and you can guess what he'd have done with him if he'd caught him." In addition, Walters said, Benjamin Franklin ran "a mail-intercept service on the British" for three years—"from 1772 to 1775, prior to the outbreak of the Revolution."

Legalized Murder in Africa

For months, the responsible nations of the world have been waiting to learn the disposition of the case of a group of Arab terrorists who murdered in cold blood two Americans and a Belgian who were members of the diplomatic corps assigned to Sudan. Finally, they were brought to trial and given life sentences. On the following day, the President of Sudan suspended their sentences. This places Sudan's approval on crimes committed by terrorists, even when murder is involved.

It is interesting to note that the Sudan received \$5.3 million from AID and \$8.6 million in food distribution during Fiscal Year 1974. Additional millions were given through U.N. organizations, to which we are the principal contributor. For Fiscal Year 1975, AID had planned giving Sudan \$10.85 million plus \$5.1 million in food. Will Congress have the good judgement to eliminate these giveaways?

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from Florida